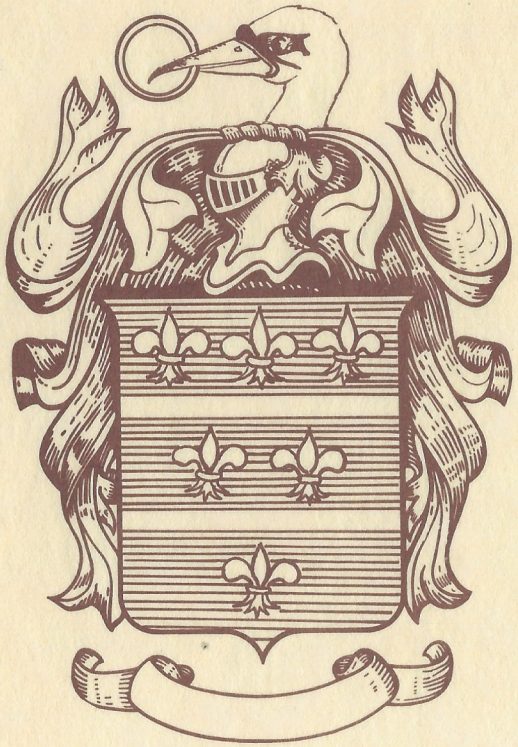
Coat of Arms



Updike

Historiography

The Updike Coat of Arms illustrated left was drawn by an heraldic artist from information officially recorded in ancient heraldic archives. Documentation for the Updike Coat of Arms design can be found in Bolton's American Armory. Heraldic artists of old developed their own unique language to describe an individual Coat of Arms. In their language, the Arms (shield) is as follows:

"Az. 2 bars arg. betw. 6 fleurs-de-lis arg. 3,2, and 1."

When translated the Arms description is:

"Blue, two silver horizontal bars between six silver fleur-de-lis 3, 2, and 1."

Above the shield and helmet is the Crest which is described as:

"A swan's head holding an annulet."

A translation of the Crest description is:

"A swan's head holding a ring."

Family mottos are believed to have originated as battle cries in medieval times. The Motto recorded with the Updike Coat of Arms is:

"OPTIMUM VIX SATIS"
(Truth Is Best)

Individual surnames originated for the purpose of more specific identification. The four primary sources for second names were: occupation, location, father's name and personal characteristics. The surname Updike appears to be locational in origin, and is believed to be associated with the Dutch, meaning, "one who came from, or lived near a dike." The supplementary sheet included with this report is designed to give you more information to further your understanding of the origin of names. Different spellings of the same original surname are a common occurrence. Dictionaries of surnames indicate probable spelling variations. The most prominent variations of Updike are Updyke, Dyke, Dykes and Upkycke.

Census records available disclose the fact there are approximately 775 heads of households in the United States with the old and distinguished Updike name. The United States Census Bureau estimates there are approximately 3.2 persons per household in America today which yields an approximate total of 2480 people in the United States carrying the Updike name. Although the figure seems relatively low, it does not signify the many important contributions that individuals bearing the Updike name have made to history.

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